

# Israel, Please Cut Ties With Enemy Ireland. It's Way Past Time For A Breakup.



The story of Ireland and Israel is not one that will be remembered in the lore of geopolitical matches cooked up in diplomatic heaven.

A country with a historically tiny Jewish population, Ireland only granted permission to Israel to open an embassy in Dublin in 1994 after receiving belated de jure diplomatic recognition in 1975.

If one were to suggest that a good deal of begrudging and passive aggression could be read into that luke-warm acknowledgement of the mere existence of the Jewish State, I would suggest that they would be entirely correct. To say that Ireland has never been an enthusiastic fan of Israel would be to make a gross understatement.

## The Irish Government's Hatred Of Israel — Obsessive, Pervasive, Relentless, Legendary

As a Jew born in Ireland, who lived there until the age of 25, Ireland's obsessive fixation with Israel — almost always highly negative in character — made me feel increasingly alienated from the society I grew up in.

As I grew up, I found myself appalled by the fact that the Irish discourse about Israel that took place online was widely tainted by the hallmarks of blatant antisemitism.

Skeptical voices opined that the online sphere is not a good barometer of more widespread opinion. Increasingly I found myself dubious of these attempts to sanitise the debate.

Ireland is a country with little firsthand experience of Jews beyond those depicted in its literature, and with a generally meagre grasp on Jewish history.

As I grew up and formed political opinions, I was disappointed but not surprised to discover that the mere mention of the word ‘Zionism’ was met with looks of disdain.

## In Ireland, ‘Zionism’ Is A Dirty Word



To be uttered only under one's breath. It was better not to talk about Israel at all—at least out of the house. One would hate to collect dirty looks, after all. Or to make people uncomfortable. Fake equanimity is arguably even worse.

To be a compliant Irish Jew was to be tepid in support of Israel at best — or preferably to offer ideological support to the other side. Not quite full-blown Marranos. But perhaps not more than half a step above. The last time I voiced support for Israel announcing myself as Irish-born, my inbox was flooded with a deluge of hate mail for quite literally days.

Most appropriately it was an Irish rabbi who invented a camouflaged mezuzah. With due respect to the inventor, any country in which owning a “Camozuzzah” is necessary is not one I would wish to live in as a Jew.

Irish Jews being scarce, for the Irish left, Irish Jews who are openly anti-Israel are something of a unicorn-like commodity. Jews of course are the ultimate collectors' pieces to buttress oneself against allegations of anti-Semitism. Pointing to the presence of a Jew at your demonstration is a powerful way of saying "look, it's not about them. It's about Zionism!"

If they can't be found in Ireland, they can be imported like prized delicacies from the UK and carefully hemmed into an ideological bubble of hate to ensure that their opinions don't waver.

Richard Boyd Barrett and the militantly anti-Semitic party over which he presides knows a thing or two about this.



*Graffiti daubed on a wall in Co. Waterford, Ireland last October, after October 7th. According to the report of the incident, Ireland's police force were not pursuing an investigation into the matter.*

Ultimately I found the idea of being Irish and Zionist mutually exclusive. I would suggest that this didn't involve the application of elaborate logic but rather the use of simple common sense unfitting of a Nobel Prize. And thus in 2015 I left to move to Israel. It is my fervent hope that all Irish Jews should leave too.

Almost a decade later, I'm not surprised to notice that Irish online commenters still regard 'Zionism' as a good insult to level at Jews. Nothing new has emerged from under the sun.

If anything speaks to a profound ignorance of Jewish history and the centrality of Zionism to the Jewish people this is probably it.

To call me a "dirty Zionist" entails insulting my personal hygiene but also affirming my belief in the essential centrality of Israel to my people.

Should I be flattered or outraged? I still can't decide.

# So ... Why Do The Irish Appear To Hate Us?

THE JERUSALEM POST

ISRAEL NEWS HEALTH & WELLNESS WORLD NEWS MIDDLE EAST BUSINESS & INNOVATION OPIN

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## Why does Ireland hate Israel? - opinion

Underlying antisemitism is only one part of an explanation of Irish hostility. Viewing the Arab-Israel conflict solely through a distorted lens is another.

By MARK REGEV

FEBRUARY 17, 2022 17:04 Updated: FEBRUARY 17, 2022 20:09



*Articles such as this one have become a somewhat regular fixture both in English and Hebrew language media after October 7th. Screenshot: Jerusalem Post.*

For decades now, curious observers and those — like myself — with skin in the game have fallen over themselves attempting to explain Ireland's historical antipathy to everything to do with Israel.

The only commonality between these repetitive acts of excuse-making—often proffered by non-Jewish Irish commentators writing in Irish media—is to ensure that anti-Semitism is never proffered as an explanation.

But why ask in the first place?

Ireland's opposition to Israel isn't unique. Far from it, of course.

But in terms of its near universality, vitriol and almost complete lack of opposition it's a different beast than that which is encountered in most of the non-Arab world. A vicious echo-chamber of unchallenged hate. Or at least so I would contend.

It was this cozy climate of acceptance that must have empowered Ireland's Richard Boyd Barrett to label Israel a "dirty" "psychopathic" country against which an "intifada" to be

levelled to “bring it down.” I brought the remarks to public attention in a tweet that ended up being viewed more than one million times and attracting coverage in Ireland’s newspaper of record, The Irish Times.

Boyd Barrett’s language describing Israelis as collective subhumans evoked chilling echoes from history — a comparison not helped by his manic mannerisms:

*“You can only make peace with human beings. With people who have some humanity. You cannot make peace with a psychopath. With a mass murderer. With a savage. And that is what the State of Israel is!”*

Shocked by what I saw on the internet, I brought the remarks to public attention in a tweet that ended up being viewed more than one million times. The issue attracted the attention of Ireland’s newspaper of record, The Irish Times. Did Ireland have red lines when it came to Israel!? We were about to find out the disappointing answer.

An intrepid reporter put the statements to Ireland’s deputy FM who affirmed that they were “wrong.” Another journalist offered Boyd Barrett the opportunity to retract or apologise for the remarks. He refused to the deafening echo of no condemnation. A month later his party published a manifesto advocating that the State of Israel be replaced by a replacement state ... called Palestine. No, really.



*Irish member of parliament Richard Boyd Barrett calling for an intifada to “put down” the “dirty” “psychotic” Israel in Dublin last year. Screenshot: YouTube.*

While many world governments are critical of Israel, at least at times, Ireland stands head and shoulders in the relentless of its persecution of Israel. If kind words have ever been offered in the Oireachtas about the Jewish State I’m not aware of them. Had they been

uttered, I would have expected whoever uttered them to be shunned and dis-elected. In Ireland, only one opinion about Israel is a permissible one.

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As we saw last year, in today's Ireland, calls to join an 'intifada' against Israel can be uttered in the light of day in the capital city without consequence.



**Yemen Yemen make us proud! Turn another ship around!**

*At a protest in Cork last week, protesters chanted support for The Houthis' actions in The Red Sea.*

I operate a small YouTube channel that attempts to point out how tolerated anti-Israel hate speech is in the Irish discourse with the fantastical aspiration that perhaps doing so might at least highlight the problem.

Last week in Cork protesters chanted their support for the Houthis encouraging them to "turn another ship around." An Irish musician has made a popular melody out of the chant "from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free." Despite continued highlighting of the fact that the slogan is viewed by many as a call to exterminate Israel of Jews, its bars ring out week after week. But it's okay. People Before Profit wrote a pamphlet confirming that the slogan isn't tainted with anti-Semitism.

The findings have been grim and have frankly made me — as a Jewish Israeli — terrified of the prospect of ever setting foot in Ireland again. It's not that the words are uttered.

Ireland's definition of what constitutes hate speech excludes Israelis from protection it seems.

## Ireland Pursues A Multifaceted Diplomatic War Against Israel

The hostility of much of the Irish population towards Israel is reflected in the representatives they elect and how they comport themselves at international institutions.

### **Von der Leyen does ‘not speak for Ireland’ on Israel-Hamas conflict**

ISRAEL-HAMAS



*Ireland’s President Michael D Higgins criticised EU Commissioner Ursula Von Der Leyen for stating that the EU “stands with Israel” after the October 7th attacks.*

When EU Commissioner Ursula Von Der Leyen affirmed that the EU “stands with Israel” in the wake of October 7th, Ireland’s president felt the need to distance Ireland from the remarks. You know. Ireland couldn’t possibly be perceived as being in any way supportive of Israel. Even for a split second.

At fora like the UN and EU, Ireland sides with any motion that condemns Israel. More centrally it has decided that it wishes to take up the mantle of leading the charge. In the wake of October 7th it unsuccessfully attempted to force the EU to interject a perverse moral equivalency into its condemnation of the atrocities. Fortunately nations with straighter moral compasses rejected the attempt.

Hearing what it so badly wanted to hear, Irish media spun the ICJ interim judgement as a vindication of the fact that Israel must be committing a non-existence genocide. Ireland is now actively considering joining South Africa’s absurd persecution of Israel at the ICJ.

As among the largest contributors of troops to highly biased anti-Israel missions like UNIFIL, UNDOF, and UNTSO, Irish “peacekeepers” play valuable roles on Israel’s doorstep ... in ensuring that the organisation they report to is supplied with a steady flow of information with which to further attack Israel.

## NGO MONITOR

PUBLICATIONS, NGOS & FUNDERS, FUNDING DATABASES, TERROR DATABASES, BLOG, WHO FUNDS US

- In 2021, Ireland's Official Development Assistance (ODA) to the West Bank and Gaza was €17 million.

## Direct Funding from the Irish Government

### Irish Aid Funding to Palestinian NGOs

- In 2022, Addameer received €80,625 from Irish Aid.
  - Addameer is an official PFLP “affiliate” and several of Addameer’s current and former employees, as well as lawyers that work for Addameer, are linked to the terror group.
  - On October 22, 2021, the Israeli Ministry of Defense declared Addameer a “terror organization” because it is part of “a network of organizations” that operates “on behalf of the ‘Popular Front’.”
  - Khalida Jarrar served as vice-chairperson of the PFLP-affiliated NGO Addameer, until 2017. Jarrar was arrested on October 31, 2019 on suspicions of “involvement in terror activity.” On December 18, 2019, it was revealed that Jarrar has “emerged as the head of the PFLP in the West Bank and responsible for all the organization’s activities” (emphasis added).
  - Addameer listed Samer Arbid as its accountant for several years on its website. According to Israeli security officials, on August 23, 2019, he commanded a PFLP terror cell that carried out a bombing against Israeli civilians, murdering 17-year old Rina Shnerb, and injuring her father and brother. According to the indictment, Arbid prepared and detonated the explosive device.

*According to information sourced by NGO Monitor, the Irish taxpayer has been channelling aid towards Palestinian NGOs which Israel later proscribed as terrorist organisations owing to their ties to the PFLP, among others.*

Not content with stopping even there, Ireland works through the murky world of NGOs to fund highly politicised organisations which are almost universally anti-Israel in outlook. These include the official charity arm of the Catholic Church of Ireland, Trócaire.

The important work of NGO Monitor lays bare the shocking extent of this bias which flatly contradicts Ireland’s absurd claims of “neutrality” around this conflict. Not that anybody in Israel was buying that claim in the first place.

After revelations about UNRWA’s long-known associations with Hamas were revealed last week, Ireland again bucked the trend by proudly announcing that it would continue channelling money into the entity thereby ensuring that Hamas continue to enjoy some useful facilities in Gaza within which to hide weapons.

Ireland is one of UNRWA’s main funders. It could now be argued that Ireland is wilfully channelling aid into an organisation which has been proven to directly abet Hamas. Perhaps Israel should consider hauling Ireland before the ICJ as a state sponsor of terrorism.

# Ireland has no plans to suspend funding to UN agency for Palestinian refugees, Martin says

ISRAEL-HAMAS



*Even in the wake of the UNRWA revelations, Ireland decided to take a different approach to other European nations, choosing to continue channelling taxpayer money into the organisation.*

Of course as friends of Ireland in Israel are wont to remind me, it isn't all one narrative.

Organised activities to defend Israel in Ireland are well-intentioned but find themselves attempting to swim against a tsunami of hate.

Irish friends of Israel exist. But most are understandably reluctant to draw the vitriolic ire of the much larger pro-Palestine faction upon themselves.

For years, observers of Irish sentiment towards Israel have argued that a silent "majority" is either apathetic towards Israel or "quietly positive." Frankly, I don't buy it. But if I did, I would tell those mythical supporters to use their voices.

In the Ireland of 2024, even local governments have free reign to jump in on the Israel-hating bandwagon, the final checks and balances to contain the orgy of hatred having been seemingly removed.



*Cork County Council last week passed a resolution endorsing BDS, declaring Cork County an “Apartheid Free Zone” and stating that it would also not purchase goods or services from entities supportive of Israel.*

Last week Cork County Council passed a motion officially endorsing BDS following on from the actions of many other local governments who have chosen to declare their territories Israelrein “Apartheid Free Zones.” It also declared the county — the largest in Ireland — a space of “proactive solidarity with the Palestinian people.”

So there's no doubting what Cork County Council's outlook on this political conflict is: if you dare to support Israel, you're the legal target of a boycott campaign (interestingly no such measures have been instituted against Russians, etc). Toe the right line and cheerlead for

Hamas? Enjoy this oasis of “proactive solidarity” and don’t worry about that pesky hate speech stuff. I guess they’ll have to go back to using abacuses to tot up rent owned.

Defenders of Israel in government are virtually non-existent or reduced to meek criticism of sometimes wildly anti-Israel discourse. Those who break the social contract that demands obsequious criticism of the Jewish State — like Alan Shatter, an Irish Jew — find themselves open to an avalanche of hatred.

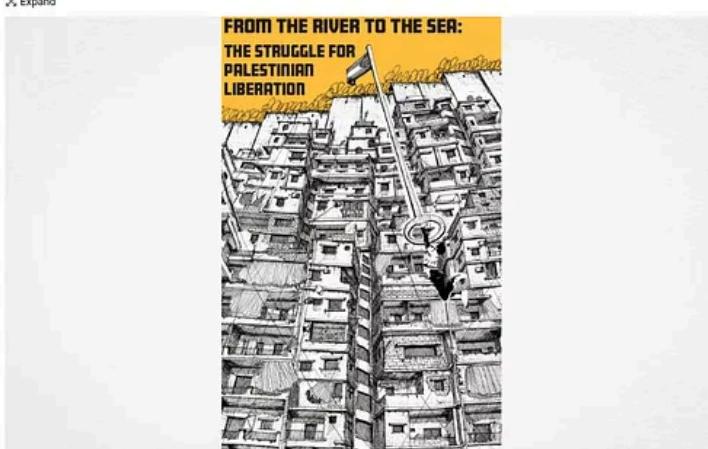
And when Ireland’s pin-up anti-Semite Richard Boyd Barrett intones in its chamber that Israel has “no right to defend itself but Palestinians do” and that Israel has no right to exist the utterances are met with tepid rebuttals or studied silence.

Politics

## People Before Profit calls for ‘total dismantlement’ of Israeli state

Party rejects idea of ‘two-state solution’ in newly published pamphlet and call for new ‘secular, democratic Palestine’ in place of Israel

Expand



In the pamphlet, entitled *From the River to the Sea: The Struggle for Palestinian Liberation*, the party rejects “western mainstream media”

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THE IRISH TIMES  
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A recently released pamphlet by the Irish party most vocal about Israel called for the “total dismantlement” of the State of Israel. Screenshot: Irish Times.

## The traditional explanations for Ireland’s virulent strain of anti-Israelism don’t tell the full picture

We’re told that Irish opposition to Israel stems from false parallels between Ireland’s experience of British colonialism and what they perceive to be happening in Israel.

This however entails providing an excuse for historical illiteracy. Why do that? Anybody with an internet connection can refute this claim in a few minutes. Almost everybody in Ireland is fortunate enough to have internet.

Since the horrors of October the 7th those of us who have long argued that anti-Semitism drives a substantial part of Ireland’s obsessional fixation with Israel have found ourselves finally vindicated, at least in part.

## JEWISH DESTRUCTION

# How The Jews Conquered Ireland

*"Five Jews came from over sea with gifts to Tairdelbach [King of Munster], and they were sent back again over sea."*

*Annals of Inisfallen, 1079 A.D.*

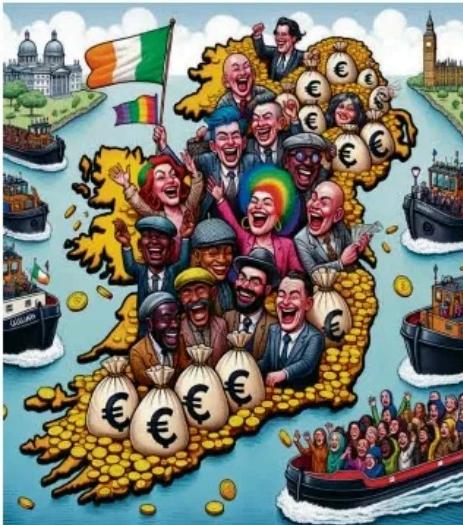
*"I propose an interrogation of how the Irish nation can become other than white (Christian and settled), by privileging the principles of the racialized, and subversive state immigration, but also integration, policies."*

*Ronan Lenihan (Ireland academic); From racial state to racist state: Ireland on the eve of the citizenship referendum, 2007.*

**TAIRDELBACH of Munster** (Turlough O'Brien 1099 - 86), who was by 1079 effectively the High King of Ireland, probably holds the world record for the fastest assimilation of Jews. He dominated the Irish political scene, had crushed the Viking leadership of Dublin, and possessed "the standard of the King of the Saxons." Unfortunately, we can only surmise the nuances of the 70-year-old warlord's reaction to the sudden arrival of a handful of gift-bearing Jews, because the Annals of Inisfallen are thin on detail.

The delegation almost certainly originated in Normandy, where the Duke of Normandy had a financial relationship with William the Conqueror. William, of course, had introduced Jews to Anglo-Saxon England thirteen years before the approach to Tairdelbach, leaving open the question why they could not instead directly to Ireland from one of these new Jewish enclaves in England. In any event, it is almost certain that they arrived seeking protection to settle in Ireland's urban centers, form a relationship with the Irish elite (Tairdelbach himself), and engage in exploitative money-lending among the lower social orders. This was a pattern that had hitherto been repeated many times. And yet Tairdelbach's reaction was to reject the gifts and immediately expel the Jews. They would not be able to form a community in Ireland for several centuries.

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It's probably no coincidence that Tairdelbach was regarded in his lifetime as a good and Christian king. He enjoyed close ties with the local church and was patron to a number of religious figures and scholars. He was almost certainly a literate and educated man, and his decision to expel the Jewish delegation may well have been based on a body of knowledge rather than mere instinct.

Historians Aidan Beatty and Dan O'Brien in their book 'Irish Questions and Jewish Questions' comment on the expulsion. No-one in Ireland had ever seen anything like this before. This incident, yet the visitors are unambiguously described as "five Jews" (several Iudei) and the Irish people already have a word for Jews, Iudei, a medieval Gaelic

word that clearly has its roots in the languages of classical antiquity. But more than that, paradox, there is also a certain kind of cultural knowledge at work here. The most remarkable thing is to give such short shrift to these Jewish grants "know" something about Jews, or more accurately they think some things about Jews they "know" that Jews are not trustworthy, that Jews bearing gifts are not to be taken into one's care.

And Jews are not suitable for receiving such a gift — they should be expelled from the country. The impression is therefore that Tairdelbach was a savvy and selfless leader, who sought the good of his people more than the good of his own short-term financial situation.

Jewish revenge, direct or

indirect, occurred a century later, when the glory days of the Gaule High King like Tairdelbach came to an end due to the Norman invasions of Ireland. The town of "Strongbow" de Clare. In common with the Norman invasion of England, Strongbow was financed by Jews, in this case an England-based Jewish financier named Josce of Gloucester.

After the Norman invasion, the new Norman elite brought a small number of their Jews into Ireland,

primarily for financial activities

at ports rather than large-scale

settlement. A grant dated 28 July

1232 by King Henry III to Peter de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, Treasurers and Chancellor of the

Irish Exchequer, the king's ports

and coast, and also "the custody

of the King's Judaism in Ireland."

These few nameless Jews would

have been dispensed with after the expulsion from England in 1290, and Jews were absent from Ireland until the time of Cromwell, who also holds a special place of notoriety in Irish history.

By following in the wake of the Normans and the English, the Jews have certainly placed themselves on a similar historical trajectory to that of the Vikings, perhaps nothing seen in the past compares with what is seen in the present. Because it is globalism that has now invaded Ireland, and Jewish activists are shaping the thought and policies of the new globalising culture.

### Mass Migration and Indoctrination

Between 2002 and 2016, the proportion of the Irish population born abroad rose from 5.8% to more than 17%. Given the relatively small population of Ireland, if the current pace of immigration continues, the Irish stand to be overwhelmed in their ancient homeland in the coming years. The biggest increases have come in the form of growing numbers of Pakistanis, Eastern Europeans, Romanian gypsies, Afghan (an increase of 21.2% on previous census), and Syrians (an increase of 19.9%).

Ireland has also become home to a large and rapidly growing African population, which has been mired in "exceptionally high unemployment rates, gang violence, sexual assault, and pretty crime. African and Muslim cab drivers have also been behind a large and growing number of rapes and sexual assaults. In financial terms, the expanding asylum process is costing the state €1 billion every five years, and in the midst of an Irish housing crisis, immigration is putting immense pressure on every aspect of the nation's infrastructure."

Strangely, the Irish media hasn't been making much of this aspect of life in Ireland during the election instead, much discussion has taken place on the fact that Ireland has no real "hate crime" laws with the exception of the Prohibition of Incitement to Hatred Act 1989, which has managed to achieve only 10 convictions and 10 convictions in the last 30 years. Dr Ali Selim, of the Islamic Cultural Centre in Dublin, has said "there is a desperate need for hate crime legislation."

*The Irish Light — a freesheet published by conspiracy theorist Gemma O'Doherty — has published increasingly blatant anti-Semitism over the past few months. Screenshot: The Irish Light website.*

A newsletter circulated in Dublin — The Irish Light — now openly peddles in the kind of anti-Semitism that would have felt right at place during the height of Nazi Germany.

We're told crazy tales of how Jews "conquered" Ireland. How they're secretly controlling all aspects of Irish society and the media. How they bring the scourge of money-lending wherever they go. Its publisher brags that Ireland never evidenced significant persecution of Jews because it had the good wisdom to never let them in in the first place.

The fact that this publication's visionary is transparently insane does not (in my view) excuse the fact that the material is allowed to circulate, apparently without impedance. Month after month blatant hook-nose-Jews style anti-Semitism is being pushed into letterboxes and foisted onto newsstands in Ireland. I regard this as incredibly concerning.

*A tweet from Ireland's largest political party states that the entirety of Ireland's parliament is against Israel's operation in Gaza. Screenshot: X.*

Just today, Ireland's majority government party Fianna Fáil tweeted that "All of us in this House are united in our view that what is happening in Gaza must stop."

If a descriptive statement of what's problematic about Ireland's outlook on Israel could be offered, maybe this is it. If those words were true, every one of the 160 elected representatives in Ireland's government denies Israel — and of course only Israel — the right to prosecute a war to ensure its security.

Much as being a good Jew in Ireland requires being reticent about Israel, being a respectful member of the Irish parliament appears to require repudiating Israel's right to self-defence.

## The Israeli Response Can And Must Be More Hawkish

So what can we do about this from this side of Europe?

We can take a few actions, I suggest.

For one, Israel should stop engaging with the Irish Government who seem to harbour the delusional vision that they can be of help in resolving the Middle Eastern conflict.

Governments of course change and so can foreign policies. But this is certainly the most appropriate posture to adopt towards Ireland's current set of incumbents. Ireland's current government has made the country an enemy of Israel. There. I said it.

Even if Ireland's experience in Northern Ireland were illustrative and instructive — and I suggest that it's neither — third parties offering to mediate between those at loggerheads are generally expected to be neutral. Ireland is among the last countries on earth qualified to provide good offices here (although that realisation will not spare us from the patronising lessons and moralising).

Last week, Irish Deputy Prime Minister Micheal Martin affirmed that Israel must be “taken to account” for its actions in Gaza before instructing lawyers to investigate whether it would be feasible for Ireland to join the legal case against Israel. Ireland’s justice minister has affirmed her support for Ireland’s “intervention” (of course, to support South Africa). You can almost hear the salivation at this prospect from here.

None of these things of course are congruous with neutral foreign policy. The fake neutrality Ireland tries to convince us of is essentially a form of diplomatic gaslighting. Ireland has made its bed supporting Islamic terrorism. Ireland’s foreign policy outlook is no longer European. Even if it means shifting a folder in a storage cabinet, Israel should recategorise Ireland as belonging to the Islamist-aligned bloc with sworn hatred of Israel as a basic criteria for admission.

Moreover, it’s time to stop falling for the lies and bluffs of certain Irish statesmen.

Several months ago Minister Martin was in Israel describing to Israeli government members that Ireland was a “friend” of Israel which harboured no enmity towards it. Sources in Ireland tell me that behind closed doors the FM can be even more adamant that his policy is “pro Israel.”

## Ireland’s Next Government May Be More Anti-Israel Then Anything Which Has Come Before It



Why am I writing this now? Because I see these developments as important.

In recent months, we’ve witnessed how Ireland has thrown its chips in with the most virulently anti-Israel nations on the planet.

Ireland’s full-on embrace of anti-Israelism may portend the first fractures in the brittle glue holding EU states together.

It will also prove interesting to observe how a country espousing Western liberal values meshes with the Arab world.

Will shared disdain for Israel prove enough to stay friends?

To my amazement, many seem surprised to be witnessing this slight shift in the geopolitical tectonic plates. To witness how thoroughly Ireland is saturated in dislike for the Jewish state.

I suggest that it's only a continuation of business as normal. Why expect different from a government that took more than a decade to acknowledge our State's existence? Its repeated actions have shown that it will act against Israel however and wherever it can.

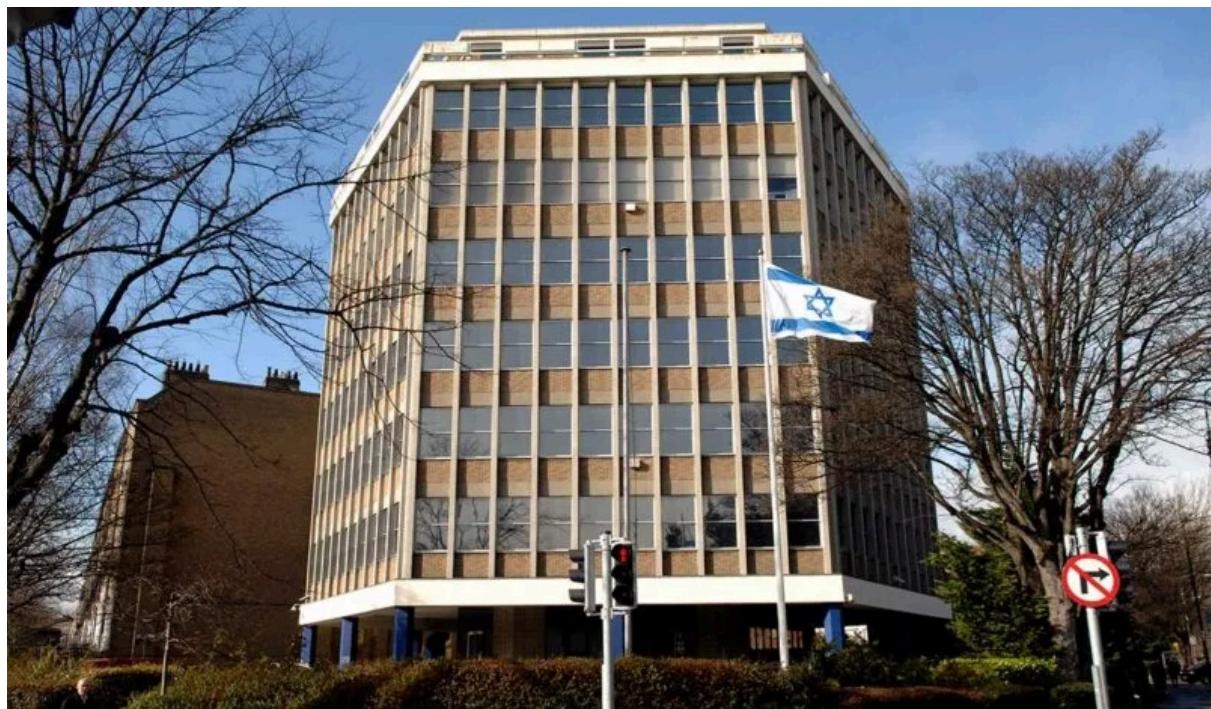
I suggest that when it comes to relations between Ireland and Israel that we haven't yet hit the bottom of the barrel. We might only be half-way there.

The current crop of Israel-haters in Ireland's parliament will seem meek if the nationalist Sinn Fein accedes to power as is planned. Led by Mary Lou McDonald, Sinn Fein has fallen in love with the PA's representative to Ireland (who has repeatedly refused to condemn Hamas's actions on October 7th). Their combination with the explosively hateful representatives of People Before Profit could make for a firework display that we haven't yet witnessed.

So I say act now before things get worse.

Albert Einstein once said that insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.

And by the great physicist's definition, Israel is worthy of being called insane.



As an Israeli taxpayer, I would very much like to see Israel's embassy in Dublin shuttered. Consular affairs can be managed as they were previously from a non-resident embassy in

the UK. On this the hordes in Ireland who habitually demand this and me are for once in entire agreement. They want the Ambassador to be expelled. I want to see her get a better posting.

If the annual budget saving were enough to offset the budgetary shortfall caused by the ongoing war I would say it was an opportunity cost well realised.

It's not like our current trajectory is proving overly successful.

We've seen plenty of demonstrations of late of the folly of expecting this diplomatic relationship to be anything other than deeply acrimonious.

In the last few years, the Israeli software company Wix opened an office in Dublin creating 100 jobs in the process. Years later it found itself forced to defend itself for firing an employee who derided Israel as a "terror state" on social media.

The screenshot shows the BBC News homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the BBC logo, a sign-in option, and links for Home, News, Sport, Earth, and Reel. Below this is a large red banner with the word 'NEWS' in white capital letters. Underneath the banner, there is a horizontal menu with links for Home, Israel-Gaza war, War in Ukraine, Climate, Video, World, UK, Business, Tech, and a partially visible link starting with 'S'. Below this menu, there is another set of links for World, Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, Latin America, Middle East, and US & Canada. The main headline in the center of the page reads 'Irish woman sacked for Israel 'terrorist state' post' in large, bold, black font. Below the headline is a blurred thumbnail image of a person.

In Ireland, where Israel is at stake, it's quickly important enough to become a national issue. Ireland's Prime Minister recommended that the employee pursue an unfair dismissal case citing protections around freedom of speech — which seems to always be ensured in Ireland whenever Israel is the unfavourable target of that discourse. The lesson for Wix, I suggest, is simple: pay more taxes but preserve your dignity. The jobs could probably have been kept in Israel anyway.

It's not absurd either to suggest that Ireland should be added to the list of legally proscribed enemy states maintained by Israel and with which Israelis are banned from trading. The Israel-Ireland trade relationship is relatively small. Now is the time to rejig supply chains to eliminate any dependency on Ireland whatsoever.

Alternatively we can simply take the laissez faire approach. This is the more patient approach and perhaps one which Israel has already quietly committed itself to.

When Ireland attempted to pass a law which would discriminately fine companies in Judea and Samaria the US balked at the proposed legislation and the massive penalties it sought to impose. Actions have consequences.

But I say disconnect anyway because the opportunity cost seems small relative to the ongoing pain caused by keeping any relationship alive. And after doing so, we can draw comfort for the fact that we've done more or less all we can.

The current war which Israel is pursuing against Hamas and other paramilitary factions in Gaza has clarified which governments we can count on and those with which we should minimise relationships. Ireland, South Africa, and Turkey are in the latter category. I no longer find any meaningful distinctions between their levels of antipathy.

Diplomacy and dialogue are valuable tools but perhaps we need to concede that they must also have proper limits. Talking to a wall is usually viewed as a sign of insanity even if we think the wall heard us out.

And so I come back to the metaphor of an earthquake.

The geopolitics of the world are currently shaking, both quickly and profusely.

And as scary and confusing as this time is for those of us in Israel, this moment also presents us with an opportunity for reflection.

On who are friends and who are our enemies. And what our foreign relations might look like once the dust has set on Gaza.

It's an opportunity that I believe we'd be remiss to miss.

Do this now. Before it gets worse.